

Eros PEDRONI  
Appl. No.: 10/018,797

### REMARKS

#### ***Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103***

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15, 17-22 and 25-28 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cole *et al.* in view of Nonaka *et al.* and Blosser *et al.*. This rejection is traversed.

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 16 and indicated that the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By way of the above amendment, the subject matter of claim 16 has been incorporated into independent claims 15 and 25. Accordingly, it is now believed that the claims are allowable and reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection along with an indication of allowability is requested.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

The Examiner indicated that claims 23 and 24 are allowable which Applicant notes with appreciation.

#### ***Conclusion***

A full and complete response to the outstanding Office Action is believed to have been made. The Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned for any reason. Consideration of the above and allowance of the application in light thereof is respectfully requested. The above amendments do not contain new matter.

The present response is intended to correspond with the Revised Amendment Format. Applicant understands that with the Revised Amendment Format, the provisions of 37 CFR §1.121 are waived. Should any part of the present response not be in full compliance with the requirements of the Revised Amendment Format, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned for immediate correction.

In the event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension of time and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No.: 502464 referencing client reference;

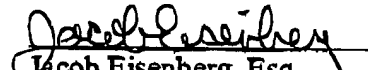
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**2003P15303WOUS.** However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully Submitted,

  
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